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DE RUEHKO #1438 0760738 ZNR UUUUU ZZH R 170738Z MAR 06 FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 9892 INFO RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 1569 RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA 0348 RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 7915 RUEHNY/AMEMBASSY OSLO 1056 RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 9466 RUEHSJ/AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE 0089 RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 7379 RUEHGP/AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE 6552 RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON 0851 RUEHIN/AIT TAIPEI 5942 RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 2791

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SUBJECT: DEMARCHE ON COLLECTIVE REQUEST FOR ONLINE GAME

SERVICES IN WTO

REF: SECSTATE 36507

In response to demarche, Hiroshi Kudo of MOFA Services Trade Division, International Trade Div., Economic Affairs Bureau told EconOff on March 16 that Japan had not yet committed itself to the CPC (Central Product Classification) for Other Recreational Services yet. Therefore it will take some time for Japan to assess first whether it wants to commit itself to that CPC line before it could study the issue of whether Online Gaming should be included under the CPC for Other Recreational Services. He added that Japan's online game industry is interested in the issue, but GOJ would need some time to consider its approach. He noted that of the 21 proposals for plurilateral requests, Japan had accepted 15 so far. Kudo said that Japan will respond to our plurilateral proposal on online gaming through its representatives in Geneva.

SCHIEFFER